THE TORONTO STAMP

VOL. I. SEPTEMBER, 1894. NO. 1.

SALUTATORY.

In presenting to the stamp collecting public, the incipient number of a new journal for the propagation of their favorite diversion, we cannot better express our promptings for so doing, than by borrowing the now almost stereotyped phrase, in editoral parlance, that "we feel we are supplying a want long felt; occupying a space long void." There is certainly ample room in Philateurdom (this word is copyrighted) for a few more journals of our class; as there is also most undoubtedly votaries enough of the pastime in the Dominion alone, to render such periodicals self-supporting, should they all contribute a reasonable quota towards it. There have been various journals started in the Dominion during the past few years, but none of them seem to have survived the first year, whether we shall do so or not remains to be seen. We do not propose entering upon our editorial career by filling our columns with promises which it may be placed beyond our power to redeem; we place our initial number before you, just as all subsequent editions will appear, for aught we know to the contrary at present. Whenever our position or support will become such as to justify an enlargement, it will be made; it rests solely with our supporters. Scan our pages for their contents. If you find any department wanting that you consider necessary to our existence, correspond with us. We live only to advance your interests; you can repay us by your countenance and and advice. Let us have both; they are no actual loss to you, while they are infinite gain to us. Our subscription price has been placed at a figure which we think will meet the approval of all collectors, and we trust they will not be slow to appreciate the boon we offer them, and will rally around us at once and will at once place the success of our venture beyond a doubt. To dealer we would respectfully recommend our advertising colums as affording every advantage to place before collectors their stock, and we assure them they will find the returns amply repay the investment.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

New Postage Stamps for Brazil.

The new series of Postage Stamps prepared in the Mints offices will be shortly in circulation.

They are finely printed, the design being engraved in wood, tinted with well combined colours.

The unpaid stamps of 10, 20, 50 reis are rose, the ciphers tinted in an oval black circle. The above values have a fine elaborate design of the Harbour of Guanabora in centre, the Paô de Assucor on the light side and and the figure of a planet in top of left side (a "luminous planet" the announcement reads.)

Those of 100, 200, 300, 500, 700 reis are coloured bluish in flames with similar vignette to the other stamps, and a fine profile of lady wearing a laureated phrygian cap in centre of oval ground.

The stamps of 1,000 reis and those of higher values are tinted violet, and represent the head of Mercury in oval circle in the centre, and the effect of these stamps is magnificent, and surpasses in finish those with which we lately used to frank our correspondence.—*Brazilian Paper.*

The *Monthly Journal* says that a sheet of the 4 penny stamp of Malta has been found unperforated.

Philipine Isles.—The 20 cent is now printed in Violet-Brown.

Bahamas.—The 2½ penny envelope is now printed in dull Blue instead of Ultramarine.

Hankow—The 2 cent is now printed in mauve on rose buff paper.

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A MONTHLY FOR COLLECTORS.

JOHN H. LOWE, Editor.

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Editorial.

Any of our subscribers receiving their paper irregular will please inform us of the same.

Advertisers, special attention is called to our low advertising rates.

Persons answering advertisements in this paper will confer a great favor upon the Publisher by mentioning the fact.

All persons receiving a specimen copy of this paper should subscribe. Do not be bashful, but send in the subscriptions. Delays are dangerous.

Animal Stamps.

Quite a number of Countries are using or have used, the figures of indigenous members of the animal kingdom, in their designs for stamps. Among these may be mentioned: New South Wales, represented by the kangeroo, emu, and lyre bird; Japan, by the Peacock; Western Australia, by the swan; Newfoundland, by the dog, seal and codfish; Canada, by the beaver; Liberia, by the elephant and rhinoceros; Peru, by the Llama; Guatemala, by the quetzal; Borneo, by the crocodile; and Perak, one of the divisions of the Straits Settlements, by the tiger.

New Portugese Stamps.

The postage stamps recently issued by Portugal, to commemorate the centennial of the infante, Don Henriques, are of unusual interest and beauty. There are thirteen denominations of this issue, of 3 different designs, viz: 5 reis yellow, 10 reis rose, 15 reis dark brown, 20 reies violet, 25 reis dark green, 50 reis blue, 75 reis carmine, 80 reis light green, 100 reis light brown on buff paper, 150 reis carmine on light pink paper, 300 reis dark blue on buff paper, 500 reis violet on pale violet paper, and 1000 reis black on gray paper. There were five hundred thousand of the series up to the one hundred reis issued, and thirty thousand of the higher denominations. They were made at Leipzig.

Postal Card Birthday.

The postal card had a birthday not long ago. Its twenty-fifth anniversary was celebrated at Vienna. Dr. Emanuel Herman an Austrian, first invented the card. It was first used in Austria-Hungary. In 1873 it was used in Germany, and in 1880 it was adopted by the International Postal Union. In regard to its use, here are some interesting figures: In Austria, 100,000,000 are in use every year; in English post offices 250,000,000, and in the whole world about 1,000,000,000.

Review.

The American Magazine for July contains an interesting article on the value of the one dollar Columbians.

The Post Office for August to hand, the leading article being Minor Varieties.

The Dominion Philatelist is now out again, notwithstanding having had their second-class rates taken from them.

The Philatelic Era is to be a weekly from September 1st. Having run for six years as a monthly and as a semi-monthly for the last few months,

The Philatelic Facts and Fallacies for July have devoted a couple of pages to the Speculative stamp, the bicycle mail route, that was issued during the strike.

Roy F. Greene gives a good article in the Dixie called Cuba a specialty, why not.

The Pansy to hand for August, contain- usual interesting artic e.

Surcharged Stamps.

A circular has been issued from the British Colonial Office concerning the practice of using the "surcharged" postage stamps, and the difficulties the post-offices have with stamp collectors and dealers. Wholesale stamp dealers have agents all over the world. When they hear there is a limited stock of stamps of a particular value in some outlying place, they buy up the stock and ask for more. The colonial officials, to avoid the delay of sending home for fresh supplies, print on stamps of different values the figures representing the price of those desired. Such a stamp is a "surcharged" one, and is sought for eargerly by collectors. So the dealers buy them also. Some dealers keep small sums deposited all over with local postmasters, with instructions to forward the value of any surcharged stamps whenever issued. Stamp collecting however, adds considerable revenue to the various colonies. The republic of Liberia depends largely on receipts from postage stamps, which it has beautifully engraved in London, mostly for the purpose of selling to collectors. It is said that Liberia, being unable to give any money to a delegate of the Chicago Exhibition, gave a large supply of postage stamps. For every stamp used in the Cook Islands, probably a couple of hundred are sold abroad. Enough is gained in this way almost to pay for the Government expenses.

It is said that the Island of Jamaica is seriously contemplating the issue of a new set of stamps in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the Island's discovery by Columbus.

There seem to have been a positive mania for issuing Centennial and Jubilee stamps all over the universe for the past two or three years, undoubtedly largely promoted by the revenues obtained from the sale of special issues to philatelists.

The duplicate albums now on sale by dealers all over the country are very convenient. There is no better method of preserving duplicates, and every collector should possess one.

There were $75,000,000 worth of postage stamps used in this country during 1893. The issue of 1847 was in use four years, and the total sales during that period amounted to but $274,710.

The Local Stamps of China.

The legitimacy of the so called "local stamps" of certain Chinese ports has created considerable discussion in the philatelic world, many claiming that the stamps in question are merely labels issued by private companies, and that they are unworthy of collection. It now seems to be generally conceded, however, that they are perfectly legitimate in every way, and that there is no earthly reason why they should not be admitted to collections.

They are issued by the highest governing authority of independent communities which are governed by what are called municipal councils, in which all interests are represented. The stamps carry mail matter to every part of the Celestial Empire having a post office of its own.

The fact that these issues by the foreign municipalities do not carry letters out ide of China is undoubtedly due to the size of these municipalities, which are not sufficiently large to make contracts with the ocean steamers and are also to small to enter the Postal Union.

But if they are to small to be rejected on that score, we should likewise discard such stamps as those from the native Indian states, the various Mexician, aside from the general government issues, and all other stamps which do not carry mail matter beyond the confines of the country where issued.

The states which have thus far issued postage stamps are Shanghai, Cheefoo, Hankow, Chunking, Kewkiang; Tientsin and Chinkiang are said to be about to follow the example of the communities aforementioned.

It is asserted that China is seriously contemplating the establishment of a complete government postal system and entrance to the Postal Union, and when this takes place it must necessarily terminate the issue of the stamps of the various local posts, which may consequently command some very fancy prices at no distant day.

More than 60,000 stamps are said to be found every year loose in the letter-boxes of the United Kingdom.

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